

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes - Notes

June 19, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Bob Ford
Kui Zhao
Scott Markow
Joan Hash
Peter Hwang

Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner
Shiraz Ahmed
Bianca Chang
Hector Garcia
Leslie Salgado-Tamayo

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, OHR Staff
Chaunta Taylor, Recording Secretary
(Training)
Janssen Evelyn, Acting HRC Executive
Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC FORUM –**
3. **APPROVE MINUTES – N/A.** Quorum was not present.
4. **CHAIR'S REPORT –** Chair Bob expressed his appreciation and thanked Stephanie for her hard work and years of service as Recording Secretary to the HRC. Bob expressed concerns about attendance. Commissioner Joan expressed her concerns as it related to members missing numerous meeting, missing 3 consecutive meetings, as stated in the HRC Rules of Procedure, etc. Commissioner Peter and Scott will contact HRC Legal counsel to clarify how a quorum is confirmed if a member resigns, dies, or is ill and unable to fulfill the duties for an extended period of time. Commissioner Scott will draft email to HRC legal Counsel. Executive Secretary Janssen re-read and re-stated the Code – Section VI – 6303 which governs absences from meetings.
5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS -** Please review reports prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports submitted, please bring your questions to the meeting. (**Reports submitted)
 - ❖ Finance and Fair Lending with Housing – Scott/Shiraz – No report submitted. Per Scott, in lieu of report, Scott requested discussing coordinating with OHR and Office of Law to submit comments in opposition to the proposed HUD rule regarding eliminating housing benefits for mixed status families.
 - ❖ Legislation – Bob/Kui – No report. Kui submits reports every other month. Next report will be submitted in July.
 - ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner – No report.
 - ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – No report.
 - ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report
 - ❖ LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob's written report. Howard County's first LGBTQ PRIDE Celebration set for 6/29, 11a – 5p, Centennial Park. Commissioners, please contact Stephanie or Bob if you plan to attend and/or can volunteer for a few hours to represent HRC. Please remember to wear your HRC name badge.
 - ❖ Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – See Bianca's written report submitted.
 - ❖ HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – No report.
 - ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan – Per Janssen, there are 2 openings on the HRC, along with an open seat for the student position. Announcements for both positions will be advertised before the end of the month. The student position advertisement is scheduled to go out tomorrow.
 - ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – Per Janssen, OHR is sponsoring and co-sponsoring several upcoming events, trainings, and educational programs this month. Janssen is encouraging Commissioners to participate, attend, and find ways for HRC to become more active and visible in the community. OHR has set up a Twitter page and IG account. OHR's webpage is being revamped. More updates will follow in the coming months ahead.
6. **STUDENT REPORT –** No report.

7. STAFF REPORT – Janssen submitted OHR staff report. Janssen highlighted numerous outreach programs and training OHR staff is participating in, planning, or co-sponsoring. Some of those events include Innocent Bystander Intervention Training, Howard County's first Caribbean American Heritage month panel discussion, Safe Spaces for LGBTQ+ Individuals: How to be an Ally, etc. Caribbean American Heritage month panelist include: Howard County State's Attorney Richard Gibson, Najee Bailey, District Aide for District 2, Robert Jean-Anantua, President of the Build Haiti Foundation, Nkechi Animashaun, HOME Program Specialist/Affordable Housing Practitioner, and Janssen Evelyn, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

8. NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Scott will draft comments on HUD's Propose Rule and forward to all members for suggestions, edits, etc. Scott will also contact HRC legal Counsel Melissa to determine if the County Executive's Office, Office of Law, or any other office needs to be informed prior to submitting comments. Stephanie will email all members to schedule a conference call to vote on this matter. Deadline to submit comments is July 9th.

Following discussion of quorum, Commissioner Scott will pose these questions to HRC legal Counsel (Melissa) for clarification:

(a) If a Commissioner dies or resigns, and a new Commissioner is not yet appointed, does his/her seat still count toward the total number of Commissioners for purposes of whether a quorum is present?

(b) Is the Commission allowed to grant a Commissioner an extended leave of absence of greater than 3 consecutive meetings for family, health, or other reasons of good cause, and if so, does that person's seat still count for purposes of whether a quorum is present?

(c) If a Commissioner needs to take an extended leave of absence that is approved by the Commission, would the County Executive or the Commission be permitted to appoint an Acting Commissioner without having to go through the confirmation process?

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Members should contact Stephanie and Chaunta to sign-up to volunteer for upcoming events, or to distribute literature on behalf of HRC during community and county-wide programs.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.